redressed by declaring Tamil as the medium of instruction in Nanjinad and by converting all the Malayalam schools there into Tamil Schools.

In regard to teaching in Tamil schools, the Member said that considerable hardship was experienced owing to the circumstance that those qualified in Malayalam only were being appointed as teachers in Tamil schools. He suggested that, in Tamil schools, teachers duly qualified in Tamil should alone be appointed. For the Vernacular School Leaving examination, those who took up Tamil as the optional had an examination in Tamil composition only. This was not desirable, since a knowledge of grammar was necessary to enable the students to obtain a fair knowledge of any language. Tamil Grammar should, therefore, be taught both for the compulsory and the optional groups in Tamil up to the School Final class. Considerable difficulty was being experienced by students as they were not able to get Tamil text-books in time, and as the books selected were not useful ones. A few more Tamil-knowing members should be appointed on the Text-Book Committee, the Committee being asked to select such useful books as were found available at the time of selection. Great difficulty was being felt by the people of Nanjinad on account of the fact that Malayalam was the court language in their taluks. To prepare a petition or plaint they had to seek the help of others, in spite of the fact that they knew Tamil fully well. The statements given by them were recorded in Malayalam and they were asked to sign something which they could not read. For the money they paid by way of taxes, etc., they were given receipts written in Malayalam, with the result that they were not able to satisfy themselves as to whether the amounts remitted by them were fully receipted. To remove these difficulties Tamil should be made the State language in all courts, revenue, registration and other offices in Nanjinad, all office correspondence being carried on only in Tamil.

Dewan's reply.—In the matter of converting Malayalam schools into Tamil schools and in the matter of appointing Tamil teachers, I have already given my reply to Mr. Ganapati Pillai and I do not want to repeat it. As regards the introduction of Tamil as a court language, the High Court say that Tamil need not be made a court language. I know that there will be some difficulty if the court language is different from the language of the people, but I do not know whether there is, after all, so much difference between Tamil and Malayalam as to render it impossible for men speaking the former not to understand the latter.

147. Ways and means of improving the economic condition of the country.

Mr. P. C. Raman Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Vilavankod) said that nearly 80 per cent of the whole of Travancore depended on agriculture for their livelihood and they invested whatever money they had on the cultivation and improvement of lands. Formerly, such investments secured rates of interest not less than 18 per cent but now that the population of the country had increased and the extent of land under cultivation remained almost the same, the outturn on investments in landed property had become very much less, approximating only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent or so. The Government should find out other means to increase the outturn on money investments. They should, in the wake of the westerners, establish as many industrial schools as possible in the country and provide for the students trained in them with ample facilities for utilising their special talents in various industrial pursuits. Industrial and trading companies should be established in the country and the people should be encouraged to evince greater interest in the working and management of those companies and take shares in them. Railways should be extended and debenture loans raised to meet the expenditure on this account. The Government had guaranteed a certain percentage of interest on the capital involved in the Quilon-Shencottah Railway and were incurring some loss every year, but, with the opening of the Trivandrum-Quilon railway, the loss in the shape of guaranteed interest had been made up, and the railway had become a profitable concern. When the last debenture loan was raised by Government, the people had not sufficient faith in such transactions, but at present

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they had learnt to value such investments and if another debenture loan was floated by Government, it would very soon be subscribed for in full. Steps should also be taken to popularise the spinning and weaving industry. There were sufficient facilities in the country for cotton cultivation, the climatic condition of South Travancore being best fitted for the growth of cotton. The Member felt sure that, if the Agricultural Department would show some interest in that direction by the establishment of cotton farms, etc., the country could produce all the cotton required for its people. In conclusion, the Member requested the Dewan to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja their sentiments of loyalty and gratitude for the various boons conferred on them.

Dewan's reply.—I quite agree with you in your views in regard to the encouragement to be given to industries. You rightly say that there is a craze for land on account of want of other outlets for capital and that in consequence land is rising in value. It would be a very good thing if other outlets for money could be found and it is for this reason that the Government are endeavouring to encourage industries. I am very glad to hear from you that it would be possible to raise in the country itself the required funds for the extension of the railway. But before a railway is actually constructed, its financial aspect should be thoroughly examined, and for this purpose a detailed survey of the nature of the country, etc., will have to be made. So far as the Trivandrum-Nagercoil extension is concerned, we are going to commence that survey as early as practicable.

Then you refer to spinning and weaving. It would, no doubt, be a very good industry to start if you have the necessary raw material, viz., cotton. In the adjoining Tinnevelly District, cotton is grown in plenty and I believe that the Quilon mills have been re-opened in the hope of getting raw material chiefly from Tinnevelly. If you can get raw material from Tinnevelly, it would be a very good thing to start more spinning and weaving mills here. The next best solution is to grow cotton in this country. So far as I have seen, there is only a very small belt of land [round Cape Comorin fit for the cultivation of cotton. You say that South Travancore is well-suited for the growth of cotton, but I am not very hopeful about it. I am afraid that the climatic conditions are not suitable. The Director of Agriculture is conducting experiments near Puliyara in the Shencottah taluk. I shall ask the Director to investigate the question. I shall have experiments conducted at Neyattinkara or Kuzhittura, and, if they are successful, it would be a great advantage.

I shall be very glad to convey to His Highness the Maha Raja your sentiments of loyalty and devotion.

148. Public Service.

Mr. T. Kumara Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) represented that the public service of the State stood in need of reform.

At present it was not possible for Travancoreans to become Dewans of the State. If this was due to lack of competent men, the expenditure of Rs. 33 lakhs incurred on education in the country stood self-condemned. The fault, however, lay not in the educational system, but in the fact that graduates were entertained on an initial salary of Rs. 40 or Rs. 45 and gradually promoted on the basis of seniority in service. By the time one became a Dewan Peishkar, one attained 55 years of age and had to retire. The institution of a Travancore Civil Service Examination would solve the difficulty. Riding should form an indispensable test for that examination. Persons passing the Travancore Government Service Examination and possessing family status and character should be started on a pay of about Rs. 150 per mensem and promoted according to efficiency. They would then be able to rise to the highest post in the land. He then made the following suggestions:—

(1) Students should be sent abroad for further studies on loan scholarships.

(2) The posts of Account Officer and the Financial Secretary should be held by two different officers.

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